

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 168488

ORIGIN EUR-12

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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WARSAW FOR ARMITAGE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EEWT, CVIS, CSCE, SHUM, RO

SUBJECT: HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING ON ROMANIAN MFN/
EMIGRATION
. HOUSE TRADE SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING ON MFN
CONCLUDED IN ONE SESSION LASTING JUST OVER THREE HOURS.
POINTS RAISED BOTH FOR AND AGAINST EXTENSION WERE ESSENTIAL-
LY SAME AS THOSE RAISED IN SENATE HEARING WITH A FEW NEW

ANGLES. SUECOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN VANIK'S POSTURE WAS GENERAL-
LY MORE FAVORABLE THAN THAT OF RIBICOFF. SUBCOMMITTEE
RECONVENED LATER SAME AFTERNOON AND REPORTED OUT
UNFAVORABLY, BY UNANIMOUS VOTE, MCDONALD RESOLUTION CALLING
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PAGE 02 STATE 168488

FOR DISAPPROVAL OF EXTENSION. FULL WAYS AND MEANS COMMIT-
TEE IS EXPECTED TO FOLLOW SUIT BY JULY 22, THEREBY CLEARING
PATH FOR MFN EXTENSION. END SUMMARY.

2. HOUSE TRADE SUBCOMMITTEE CONVENED 10:00 AM JULY 18 TO
HEAR TESTIMONY FROM 27 WITNESSES ON ROMANIAN MFN EXTENSION.
(STATEMENTS AND OTHER MATERIAL BEING POUCHED.) VANIK

CHAired MOST OF SESSION. OTHER SUBCOMMITTEE PARTICIPANTS WERE JENKINS (GA.), JONES (OKLA.), GIBBONS, FRENZEL AND FISHER (VA.). ADMINISTRATION WAS REPRESENTED BY COUNSELOR NIMETZ AND AMBASSADOR BARNES, EWT DEPUTY DIRECTOR STROH FROM COMMERCE, DAS HUFBAUER FROM TREASURY, AND ASST. SPECIAL REP. LANDE FROM STR.

3. VANIK OPENED BY EXPRESSING CONCERN ABOUT "CYCLICAL" NATURE OF ROMANIAN EMIGRATION PERFORMANCE AND DROP IN JEWISH EMIGRATION RATES. HE SAID HE WAS PLEASED AT THE LANGUAGE OF PRESIDENT'S RECOMMENDATION AND ASKED FOR MORE DETAILS ON "MONITORING." NIMETZ EXPLAINED THAT IN ADDITION TO WEEKLY AND MONTHLY REPORTS ON EMIGRATION RATES, ADMINISTRATION WILL INSTITUTE A MID-YEAR (WINTER) REVIEW OF ROMANIAN PERFORMANCE, WHEN WE WOULD REVIEW EMIGRATION TO BOTH US AND ISRAEL, AND, AFTER CONSULTATION WITH CONGRESS, DISCUSS IT WITH ROMANIAN OFFICIALS, TAKING CASE-BY-CASE APPROACH. NIMETZ ADDED THAT WE HAVE ALREADY DISCUSSED POSSIBILITY OF SOME STREAMLINING OF EMIGRATION PROCEDURES WITH GOR, AND COMMENTED ON DIFFICULTY OF ASSESSING JEWISH EMIGRATION LEVEL. BARNES ADDED THAT US REPRESENTATION LIST SEEMS TO HAVE BECOME MORE USEFUL IN SENSE THAT GOR NOW USES IT AS A MEASURING STICK AND, FOR THE PAST SIX MONTHS, IS TAKING MORE RAPID ACTION ON CASES THAN A YEAR AGO. HE COMMENTED THAT THE ISRAELIS DO NOT RPT NOT USE SUCH LISTS, HENCE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 STATE 168488

THERE IS NO COMPARABLE BENCHMARK OF PERFORMANCE. BARNES ADDED THAT IT IS IMPORTANT TO LOOK AT APPROVALS AS WELL AS DEPARTURES, WHICH TEND TO BE AFFECTED BY SEASONAL AND OTHER FACTORS. HE NOTED THAT WE RECEIVED A LARGE NUMBER OF APPROVALS EARLY IN YEAR, BUT DEPARTURES TEND TO BE HIGHER IN THE SUMMER.

4. JONES ASKED WHETHER ADMINISTRATION IS DOING ANYTHING ABOUT SITUATION OF HUNGARIAN MINORITY. NIMETZ RESPONDED THAT IT IS LARGELY AN INTERNAL MATTER, BUT ONE WHICH WE HAVE DISCUSSED WITH GOR BECAUSE US SUPPORTS SELF-FULFILLMENT OF ANY MINORITY. HE POINTED TO RECENT CEAUSESCU-KADAR COMMUNIQUE AS PROMISING STEP. JONES SAID HE UNDERSTOOD 30 - 40,000 ROMANIAN JEWS HAD APPLIED TO EMIGRATE IN 1975. NIMETZ SAID HE DOUBTED THIS WAS ACCURATE BUT IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT MANY MIGHT WANT TO.

5. OTHER ADMINISTRATION SPOKESMEN ADDRESSED TRADE AND ECONOMIC ISSUES, FOLLOWED BY LENGTHY QUESTIONING ON COMPOSITION OF TRADE, ISLAND CREEK COAL DEAL, EFFECT OF

GSP, SHOE AND TEXTILE EXPORTS, CREDIT ARRANGEMENTS, AND PROBLEMS OF DEALING WITH NON-MARKET ECONOMY IN MTN AND OTHER CONTEXTS.

6. CONGRESSMEN FINDLEY, BREAUX (LA.) AND DERWINSKI TESTIFIED IN SUPPORT OF MFN. DODD (CONN.) SAID EMIGRATION FIGURES ARE DISAPPOINTING AND CRITICIZED ASSIMILATIONIST PRESSURES ON HUNGARIAN MINORITY. DODD SAID HE WAS PREPARED TO GO ALONG FOR ANOTHER 12 MONTHS BUT

CALLED FOR QUARTERLY REVIEW OF EMIGRATION AND "OUTSIDE OBSERVERS, ON EMIGRATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS. MCDONALD LAMBASTED ROMANIA ON ALL COUNTS - EMIGRATION, PROCEDURES, AND HUMAN RIGHTS. JENKINS SUGGESTED THAT PROPORTION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 STATE 168488

OF ROMANIAN JEWS BEING ALLOWED TO EMIGRATE WAS SIGNIFICANT EVEN BY MCDONALD'S FIGURES (MCDONALD HAD CLAIMED THERE ARE ABOUT 60,000 JEWS IN ROMANIA). VANIK ADDED THAT ASIDE FROM HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS, HIGH EMIGRATION RATES CAN CAUSE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS.

7. RABBI ISRAEL MILLER'S STATEMENT WAS SIMILAR TO THAT OF WILLIAM KOREY JUNE 27. MILLER SAID, "IF MFN IS EXTENDED AND IMPROVEMENT IN EMIGRATION DOES NOT OCCUR, WE WOULD EXPECT MFN TO BE TERMINATED NEXT YEAR." MILLER POINTED TO DROP IN NUMBERS, "INTIMIDATING CLIMATE," AND BURDENSOME PROCEDURES. HE ASKED THE DEPARTMENT TO BE "MORE AGGRESSIVE" IN PURSUING THE MATTER WITH ROMANIA. JACOB BIRNBAUM TOOK TOUGHER LINE, CALLING FOR MORE DETAILED MONITORING REPORTS, QUARTERLY CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW, MORE FREQUENT CONGRESSIONAL VISITS TO ROMANIA PRECEDED BY BETTER BRIEFINGS, AND CONTINUOUS US-ROMANIAN DISCUSSIONS ON EMIGRATION. HE ALSO COMPLAINED ABOUT BEING PLACED NEAR END OF WITNESS LIST. (HIS TESTIMONY GREATLY IRRITATED SUBCOMMITTEE STAFFER DAVE ROHR.)

8. FATHER GALDAU CRITICIZED WHAT HE CALLED A "NEW SYSTEM OF HARASSMENT" OF POTENTIAL EMIGRANTS AND LACK OF FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS IN ROMANIA, BUT ACKNOWLEDGED THAT ROMANIA WAS DOING BETTER ON REUNIFICATION OF DIVIDED FAMILIES AND DID NOT DIRECTLY OPPOSE MFN EXTENSION. HE SUBMITTED LIST OF OVER 200 CASES.

9. FANNIE BIGIO, PRIVATE CITIZEN OF ROMANIAN PARENTS WHO HAD VISITED ECATERIAN RAUTA IN BUCHAREST, DESCRIBED HARASSMENT OF MRS. RAUTA AND APPEALED FOR INTERVENTION, WITHOUT DESCRIBING BACKGROUND OF CASE.

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10. A NUMBER OF WITNESSES, INCLUDING LASZLO HAMOS, TESTIFIED ON HUNGARIAN MINORITY PROBLEM, SOME TAKING PRO-GOR POSITION.

11. JOHN GILBERT, FORMER WAYS AND MEANS MEMBER AND NOW CO-COUNSEL FOR UNGUREANU/TUDOR, APPEALED FOR PRESSURE ON GOR TO RESOLVE ORGHIDAN ESTATE CLAIM ON BASIS THAT TUDOR'S RIGHTS AS AN AMERICAN CITIZEN WERE BEING VIOLATED AND THAT GOR IS VIOLATING 1973 CONSULAR CONVENTION.

12. A FEW WITNESSES, INCLUDING BARBU NICULESCU, REFERRED TO DESIRABILITY OF MULTI-YEAR MFN EXTENSION, BUT

CONGRESS IS CLEARLY NOT READY FOR SUCH A STEP AT THIS TIME.

13. IN MARKUP SESSION AFTERNOON JULY 18, SUBCOMMITTEE VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO REPORT OUT MCDONALD BILL UNFAVORABLY. DAVE ROHR SAID FULL COMMITTEE IS EXPECTED TO ACT BY JULY 22, BEFORE 30-DAY PERIOD DURING WHICH COMMITTEE HAS "HOLD" ON BILL EXPIRES. THIS SHOULD CLEAR THE WAY FOR EXTENSION OF ROMANIA MFN FOR ANOTHER YEAR. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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